

BOOK REVIEWS

Local Anaesthesia Methods and Results in Abdominal Surgery. By Hans Finsterer. Illustrated. New York: Rebman Company. 1923.

Finsterer's book is more than a mere exposition of methods of local anesthesia. It might perhaps better be entitled "Abdominal surgery under local anesthesia."

The first hundred pages have to do with local and regional anesthesia in the abdomen; the remaining two hundred fifty treat of Finsterer's methods of gastric, intestinal and gall-bladder surgery.

The book contains much of value, although there are but few American surgeons who will entirely agree with the author's practice.

No doubt that splanchnic anesthesia greatly decreases the risk of abdominal operations in weak and unresistant patients when the choice lies between regional anesthesia and ether or chloroform. Gas anesthesia, however, which has come into such wide use in this country, and which almost entirely obviates the dangers of ether or chloroform, is not considered. One cannot help but feel that if gas were as much used in European clinics as it is here complicated injection methods would scarcely have reached the refinements and the development to which Finsterer has largely contributed. Finsterer's methods used together with gas give an almost ideal abdominal anesthesia—an anesthetic both of the pain-sense and of the psychic insult accompanying a major abdominal operation.

The book will be of especial value to beginners in local anesthesia, for it is quite true that the only way to perfect oneself in the methods of infiltration anesthesia is to use them alone without the supplementary aid of a general anesthetic. After one has mastered the technic, one may supplement the effects of novocain with gas; if the beginner immediately has recourse to gas or ether, he will never learn the imperfections of his infiltration anesthesia.

The book will be equally valuable to surgeons working in small hospitals without special anesthesiologists skilled in the use of gas. It is in the small hospital that pure infiltration methods will find their sphere of greatest usefulness.

The controversial and rancorous tone of the work is regrettable. This sentence from the opening chapter is a sad commentary on Viennese surgery:

"With the great number of surgeons in Vienna at the present time, it is certainly not necessary to state that the commercial side of such an important question is very much of a deciding factor, because we know that when a surgeon operates on all, even the minor cases, it is not in the interest of the patient, but principally in the financial interest of the operator himself."

The translation is lame, involved, full of Teutonisms and Teutonic turns of phrase. The book is full of typographical errors. The errors should be corrected and the translation might well be revised in future editions. In spite of these faults, the work is of much interest and its methods of great value. L. E.

Diseases of the Skin. By Richard L. Sutton. 5th ed 1214 pages. Illustrated. St. Louis: C. V. Mosby Company. 1923. Price, \$10.

Richard L. Sutton's fifth edition of *Diseases of the Skin* is a praiseworthy text-book, with many features which make of it one of the best. Perhaps best of all is its completeness. The many excellent illustrations are a second notable feature.

The book is well printed and pleasing to read, and for reference it is not too large. It proves its worth in diagnosis. It is equally as helpful from a therapeutic standpoint.

Sutton's book, I feel confident, will be found to fulfill any praise that may be given it. G. D. C.

BOOKS RECEIVED

Applied Pathology in Diseases of the Nose, Throat, and Ear. By Joseph C. Beck, M. D., Associate Professor of Laryngology, Rhinology and Otology, University of Illinois College of Medicine. With 268 original illustrations, including four color plates. St. Louis: C. V. Mosby Co., 1923.

The Beaumont Foundation Lectures. Subject: The Antidiabetic Functions of the Pancreas and the Successful Isolation of the Antidiabetic Hormone—Insulin. By J. J. R. MacLeod, Professor of Physiology, University of Toronto, and F. G. Banting, Research Professor, University of Toronto. Series No. 2. Auspices of the Wayne County Medical Society, Detroit, Michigan, 1923. Published by the C. V. Mosby Co., St. Louis.

Methods in Medicine—The Manual of the Medical Service of George Dock, M. D., formerly Professor of Medicine, Washington University School of Medicine. By George R. Herrmann, M. D., Instructor in Medicine, University of Michigan; formerly Assistant in Medicine, Washington University. Illustrated. St. Louis: The C. V. Mosby Co., 1924.

International Clinics, a Quarterly of Illustrated Clinical Lectures and Especially Prepared Original Articles. By leading members of the medical profession throughout the world. Edited by Henry W. Cattell, M. D., Philadelphia, with the collaboration of fifteen physicians. Volume I, Thirty-fourth Series, 1924. Philadelphia and London: J. B. Lippincott Co., 1924.

Diet for Children (and Adults) and the Kalorie Kids. By Lulu Hunt Peters, M. D., formerly Instructor in Infant Feeding, Los Angeles County and Clara Barton Hospitals, Los Angeles Medical Department, University of California, Los Angeles; Pediatrician Los Angeles County Hospital. New York: Dodd, Mead & Co., 1924.

National Health Series. Edited by the National Health Council, written by the leading health authorities of the country, and published by the Funk & Wagnalls Co. Price per volume, 30 cents. Complete set of twenty volumes (ready about May 1, 1924), \$6. The first five volumes have been received, and are as follows:

Cancer—Nature, Diagnosis and Cure. By Francis Carter Wood, M. D., Director Institute for Cancer Research, Columbia University.

Man and the Microbe—How Communicable Diseases are Controlled. By C.-E. A. Winslow, Dr. P. H., Professor of Public Health, Yale School of Medicine.

Community Health—How to Obtain and Preserve It. By D. B. Armstrong, M. D., Sc. D., Executive Officer of the National Health Council.

The Baby's Health. By Richard A. Bolt, M. D., Gr. P. H., Director Medical Service, American Child Health Association.

Personal Hygiene—The Rules for Right Living. By Allan J. McLaughlin, M. D., Surgeon United States Public Health Service.

Rush Alumni Society Banquet (reported by W. H. Olds, secretary)—The Rush Alumni Society of Southern California held a banquet March 20, in honor of Arthur D. Bevan, Wilber Post, and Truman Brophy. The dinner was held at the Athletic Club. There were eighty members of the society present. Our old professors gave us some very good addresses regarding conditions as they now exist at Rush, and the plans for the future. We hope that more of the faculty will visit us before long.